

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 5, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 24 with the words The 3-hydroxypropionic acid and ends on page 6 line 2 with the word dimers with the following amended paragraph:

The 3-hydroxypropionic acid was purchased as a 30% solution from TCI, Oregon. This product, however, contains approximately 20% monomer and the remaining 10% of the 3-hydroxypropionic acid content is in the form of various dimers.

On page 6, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 3 with the words The protocol and ends on page 6 line 8 with the word acid with the following amended paragraph:

The protocol for the gas chromatograph was as follows: A J & W DB-Waxetr 30m x 32mm 0.5um film column was used with an internal oven temperature at 90°C with a 20°C/min increase to a final temperature of 200°C. The sample was maintained at 200°C for about 12.5 minutes prior to injection. Retention times for 1,3 propandiol were about 6.8 minutes and about 15.8 minutes for 3-hydroxypropionic acid.